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1947-TWENTY YEARS OF HUMAN  
BETTERMENT-1967

The Human Betterment League  
of North Carolina



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OF NORTH CAROLINA

*Twentieth Anniversary*

1947—Twenty Years of Human Betterment—1967





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THE HUMAN BETTERMENT LEAGUE OF NORTH CAROLINA

P.O. Box 3036

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. 27102

# THE HUMAN BETTERMENT LEAGUE OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Human Betterment League of North Carolina is a voluntary agency working for the conservation of North Carolina's human resources. Its main purpose is the education of the public in family planning and in population problems and control, with particular emphasis on the prevention of births of mentally defective children.

Organized in 1947, the League is celebrating its twentieth anniversary. Throughout these years much progress has been made toward achieving these goals.



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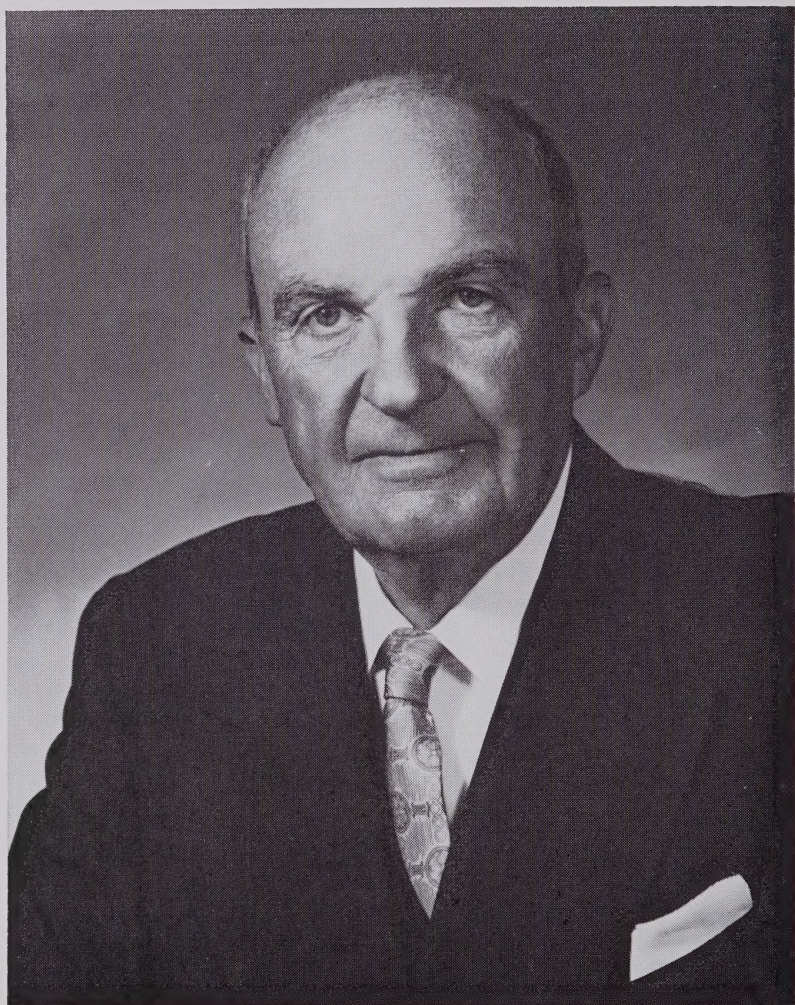
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# JAMES GORDON HANES

## *In Appreciation*

To James Gordon Hanes the Human Betterment League of North Carolina is indebted more than to any other person for its organization and its continued existence.

The League was organized in 1947 following a study in the Winston-Salem City Schools on the "Efficiency of Group Tests of Intelligence in Discovering the Mentally Deficient" made by Dr. A. M. Jordan of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mr. Hanes had been instrumental in obtaining the study and was so concerned with the need to take steps to conserve the high quality of the State's human resources that he readily accepted responsibility for leadership of an organization dedicated to these purposes. He was elected treasurer of the League at its organization and has continued since in that office.

Mr. Hanes has been a devoted and faithful officer of the League these two decades. His generosity has enabled the League to carry on its program. His deep interest in its purposes has inspired his associates in promoting the League's objectives. To the League, as to the numerous other organizations in which he has been an active participant, he has given unstintingly of his time, his means, his thought, his judgment.

North Carolina is a better state because Mr. Hanes has worked energetically and devotedly in numerous ways to make it so. One of the most important areas of his concern is that of the Human Betterment League. Because his contribution to the public good through this organization has been so significant and so useful, it is fitting that the Human Betterment League of North Carolina, on this its twentieth anniversary, pay tribute to him, in grateful appreciation for his leadership.



## MRS. ANDREW BENTON STROUP

Mrs. Andrew Benton Stroup (Jessie McMillan), a charter member of The Human Betterment League, served as secretary from the time of its organization until 1956. For five years of this time (1947-1952) she also served as director of the mailing program.

With a deep interest in the purpose of this organization Mrs. Stroup was devoted to the work, and inspired the interest of others.

Working under the direction of Dr. Clarence Gamble, she carried out a tremendous mailing program, both within and outside the state. Many a time she could be seen walking the several blocks from her apartment to the Post Office, carrying a far-too-heavy shopping bag loaded with pamphlets or books for mailing.

Her delightful sense of humor saw her through many a difficult situation.

Blessed with a keen and inquiring mind, the gift of inspiring others, and dedicated to selfless service to her fellow man, she is loved by a host of friends.

The Human Betterment League of North Carolina is indebted to this loyal friend.



TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

OCTOBER 30, 1967

ROBERT E. LEE HOTEL

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

BALLROOM, 7 P.M.

Dr. Guion Johnson, President, presiding

INVOCATION.....Dr. Mark Depp

GREETINGS.....Mr. M. C. Benton, Jr.  
Mayor of Winston-Salem

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES G. HANES.....Mr. H. C. Bradshaw

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER.....Dr. John C. Burwell, Jr.

ADDRESS.....Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher  
President, Planned Parenthood-World Population

# AN IDEA COME OF AGE

By *Chester Davis*

The North Carolina Human Betterment League, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary here October 30, is less important as an organization than as a symbol of an idea that has come of age.

When the league was organized in 1947, birth control concerned a handful of zealous reformers like Margaret Sanger and a very few, far-sighted men who suspected that Thomas Robert Malthus just might be right. Elsewhere there was either powerful opposition—that of the Catholic church, for example—or a public distaste for open discussion of such untidy matters as contraceptives, sterilization and abortion.

While the opposition continues, it appears to be wavering. The traditional Catholic position on birth control is challenged now by growing and increasingly articulate forces within the church. And public distaste promises to become a relic of our prim, Puritan past. The freedom with which we now discuss *the pill* and related matters is a measure of the change that has taken place. It is change born of reality—the reality of the population explosion which is no longer a prospect but a fact.

Demographers report that when men and women first began experimenting with the geometric progression of birth it required half a million years or so—until about 1650, they say—for world population to reach the half billion mark. Then, in 200 years, it doubled, passing the billion mark by 1850.

It doubled again in the next 100 years. By 1966, world population was put at 3.4 billion. The demographers estimate that by 2000—34 years away—there will be 6.8 billion people on earth.

This has consequences which translate into terms of numbers and quality.

The problem of quality results from the fact that the least fit are doing most of the breeding. In international terms, it is the so-called developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America which have the highest birth rates. These, of course, are the nations least able to feed their populations, much less their projected populations.

In terms of individuals, the quality problem results from the fact the birth rate is the highest—about two to one—among those least qualified for parenthood; the mentally, physically, genetically, (and, for these reasons, the economically) scrub stock. As William Penn noted, we breed horses and dogs with greater care than we breed human beings. The long-range implications are not pleasant.

The problem of sheer numbers—a problem now growing at the



rate of 60 million a year—has even more immediate and distressing implications. It will determine, for example:

- How much we will have to eat.
- The quality of our standard of living.
- The degree and rapidity in which we foul our environment with our own wastes.

The economic cost we pay because of our inability to check the run-away birth rate has not been totaled. It undoubtedly is staggering, because it includes the costs of famine, air and water pollution, and growing public health and public welfare costs.

We have reached the crossroads Malthus predicted for us. Either we check the world's birth rate immediately and substantially or it will be done for us by what he described as the three ultimate population controls: War (probably nuclear), famine and epidemic disease.

In 1947, when the North Carolina Human Betterment League was organized, the focus was on the problem of quality more than numbers. Dr. Clarence J. Gamble of Milton, Mass., a geneticist who built an international reputation at both Harvard University and at the University of Pennsylvania, was particularly concerned with genetic and economic folly in human breeding.

In the period immediately after World War II, Gamble became intrigued by North Carolina's startling rejection rate (14 per cent in 1942 and 48 per cent in 1944) of draftees for reasons of mental illness or mental retardation.

At Gamble's instigation, Miss Elsie Wulkop, a medical social worker, came to the state to explore the facts behind these statistics. With the assistance of Dr. A. M. Jordan, an educational psychologist at the University of North Carolina, the intelligence level of the school children of a rural county (Orange) was tested.

The results of this test caught the eye of James G. Hanes, then president of the Hanes Hosiery Corp. Hanes asked that a similar study be made of the children of an urban county. This was done in Forsyth County.

The results of the two studies—each reflecting an alarming incidence of mental problems, both illness and retardation—was combined with additional data gathered by Miss Wulkop and resulted in the formation of the Human Betterment League in 1947. It was the first of a number of such leagues. Its essential purpose, then and now, was to educate the people of the state regarding the need for an effective, intelligent program of birth control and to instruct them regarding the tools—and the use of the tools—of birth control.

Initially, the league emphasized the quality by concentrating on programs calculated to curb births among the least fit. More recently the league has added its voice to those of similar organizations around

the world to preach the need to control human numbers lest we breed ourselves out of standing room.

During its formative years, the league pushed for more effective use of the state's Eugenics Law.

This law, adopted in 1933 and since amended, creates a Eugenics Board which consists of the secretary of the State Board of Health, the commissioner of public welfare, the attorney general, the chief medical officer of the State Hospital in Raleigh and one other medical officer from a public mental institution elsewhere in the state.

The board, operating on a limited (\$25,000 for the 1964-66) budget meets quarterly to pass on cases proposed for selective sterilization by the directors of the state's hospitals for the mentally ill and retarded and from the superintendents of the various county public health departments.

The Eugenics Board can order sterilization in four types of cases:

- Where it is in the best interests of the patient, mentally, physically or morally.

- Where the operation is ruled to be in the public interest.

- Where there is a request made by the guardian of a mental patient.

- Where hereditary mental or physical ailments are likely to be transmitted to the child.

Appeals from the board's orders to the courts are possible, but they are uncommon because the cases are carefully selected.

The operation is simple. For males (the vasectomy), it consists of cutting and tying off the tubes through which sperm moves. For women (the salpingectomy), it consists of cutting and tying the fallopian tubes through which the egg moves.

In terms of sex, these operations have only one effect; they forever prevent conception. The sex function itself is not in any way impaired. In fact, studies suggest that sexual gratification more often than not is enhanced because of the removal of the fear of pregnancy.

From 1934 until 1947, when the league was formed, a total of only 1,827 sterilizations had been performed under the state law: 1,214 patients were feeble-minded, 385 insane, and 228 suffered from epilepsy and other hereditary afflictions.

In 1947 this state ranked 17 among the 27 states having similar laws. Since then, and largely because of the educational work done by the league, North Carolina rather regularly has led other states in protective sterilization.

Even so, the number of cases—an average of something like 250 to 300 a year—processed under the state's eugenics program is not large. It is likely to increase somewhat in the immediate future because the 1963 General Assembly amended the Eugenics Law to remove the possibility of a surgeon performing protective sterilization being



held guilty of mayhem, an ancient felony that has come down to us out of English common law.

Moreover, the sterilizations performed under the Eugenics Law represent less than 10 per cent of the total sterilizations performed each year in this state. A 1959 study of 83 hospitals in North Carolina indicated that an average of 2,880 tubal ligations (protective sterilizations) were being performed each year. More than 90 per cent of these were voluntary, and most of them were done for the convenience of the patient and because the patient was unable to risk the burden and cost of more children.

Studies indicate that for every 100 feeble-minded women (and 200 men) who undergo this operation the birth of 90 retarded children is prevented each year.

The social and economic consequences of this are apparent.

The program helps reduce the birth rate among the least fit. And, according to the record, the term "least fit" has no racial connotation. Sterilizations under the Eugenics Law rather closely follow the white-Negro ratio of our population.

The program also reduces welfare and health costs. Equally important, it protects unfit parents from the crushing burdens of family, and at the same time insures against the tragedy that results when a child of normal intelligence is born to retarded or insane parents.

In recent years, as the league's interests came to encompass the sheer number of our birth rate as well as the quality of the children being born, emphasis has been placed on local family planning clinics.

North Carolina was the first state to include birth control—counseling about contraceptive devices—in its public health program.

It was not, however, until the formation of a family planning clinic in Mecklenburg County in 1960 that this program really began to roll.

The oral contraceptive—the pill—greatly enhanced the prospects of large-scale birth control programs. By 1962, the Mecklenburg clinic had 99 women (each with a history of one to 12 pregnancies and none able to support a child) taking Enovid, an oral contraceptive which had proved highly successful in mass experiments in Puerto Rico. The cost was \$2 a month for each patient, and the director of the clinic said that in the first 13 months this program saved Mecklenburg taxpayers more than \$20,000. Equally important, it saved 99 women from burdens they were incapable of bearing.

In June 1964, thanks to spade work done by the league, by John McDowell, director of Forsyth's public welfare program, and Roger Sloop, a member of the local board of health, a similar clinic was established in Forsyth County. Administered by the Bowman Gray School of Medicine and directed by Dr. Henry C. O'Roark II, this clinic had 200 participants in its first four months. That pace has accelerated.

Similar clinics, few of them as large as those in Forsyth and Mecklenburg, now exist in some 90 local health and welfare departments in this state.

This development reflects a fundamental change in public attitude in the past two decades. This is not peculiar to North Carolina. The same change is occurring elsewhere. It is seen in many ways. For example:

—Until recently two states—Massachusetts and Connecticut—had laws which forbade anyone, including physicians, from giving out information or devices related to birth control. The Connecticut law was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1965.

—At the state level, the trend is toward removing blocks to effective birth control programs. In 1967, for example, the North Carolina General Assembly greatly liberalized this state's abortion law. There is accumulating evidence of all sorts to indicate that we are evolving a planned society. There are few areas where this evidence is as clearly seen as in birth control.

—In 1959, Dwight D. Eisenhower said that birth control was not a matter that should interest the federal government. In 1963, in an article in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Eisenhower firmly, clearly changed his position.

—In fiscal 1966, the federal government spent \$4 million on birth control. The amount was doubled in 1967. In August of this year, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare established an office to administer birth control programs. In this same period, birth control was given increasing attention in anti-poverty programs.

—Private foundations—the Ford Foundation for one—are becoming increasingly active in the family planning field.

—Last year, the United Nations for the first time took an unequivocal, strong position endorsing an all-out, international effort to control population.

This change results from two interacting causes: The dire predictions of Malthus have become realities; organizations like the North Carolina Human Betterment League—and there are now many of them here and abroad—have opened the eyes of the world to an alternative to the cruel and ultimate population controls, war, famine and plague. It is the alternative of controlling our numbers and their quality by the intelligent use of the birth control knowledge we possess.

*Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel*  
October 22, 1967



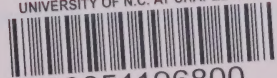






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